in the field when it was taken by other collectors. It has been found in the Stevens Creek Area on *Eriodictyon californicum* (H. & A.) Greene. This species is fairly common in the Panoche Valley in San Benito County, and near Atascadero and in the Pine Mountains (La Panza Range) in San Luis Obispo County. In these areas it is taken on *Eriodictyon crassifolium* Benth.

gemina Horn

Apparently scarce. Two only, both taken June 30, 1951, on the Arroyo Bayo east of Mt. Hamilton. They were flying in hot sunlight at mid-day, over Tar Weed (*Madia* sp.) in a dry open field.

I am indebted to Mr. Jacques Helfer for checking determinations of this genus in my collection.

BEETLE PEST CONDITIONS

During the first quarter of 1954 the Economic Insect Survey Section received several notes of interest to coleopterists. Although the majority of the reports were for the 1953 season, they still deserve mention.

Lesser clover leaf weevil (*Hypera nigrirostris* (F.)), which was reported in Nebraska for the first time in 1952, was found general in eastern areas of the State during 1953, where it damaged red clover. Sweetclover weevil (*Sitona cylindricollis* Fåhr.) was determined from two collections from Atchinson and New Madrid Counties, Missouri last year, thereby establishing statewide occurrence. Reports from that State indicate that this insect and clover root curculio (*S. hispidula* (F.)) may be responsible for the serious decline in sweetclover acreage in Missouri during the past three years. Western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera* LeC.) damage in Kansas in 1953 was greater than in any previous year.

The dermestid, *Trogoderma granarium* Everts, was reported from Arizona for the first time early in February. Specimens were taken from a flour and feed mill in Phoenix. In connection with the attention being given this pest and stored grain insects in general in California, there have been found among miscellaneous collections specimens of a grain beetle (*Lophocateres pusillus* (Klug)) and a flour beetle (*Palorus ratzburgi* Wissm.). Both of these are first records for California.

As an example of the importance of the heavy infestations of boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis* Boh.) in some of the southeastern states in 1953, North Carolina estimated that the insect caused approximately 25,000,000 dollars loss to the State's cotton growers.

Smaller European elm bark beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus* (Marsh.)) was found in Nebraska for the first time in 1953 according to reports. Specimens were collected from a declining elm in Omaha. Coleopterous conditions in the Nation's forests were covered in detail in the summary of the more important forest insects in 1953, released through the Cooperative Economic Insect Report in February 1954 by the Division of Forest Insects Research, Forest Service.

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